

COUNTRYYugoslavia

DATE:

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SUBJECT1. General Agricultural Situation

2. Wages and Conditions of Workers and Employees

DIST. 13 May 1947

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SUPPLEMENT

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A. General Agricultural Situation

1. The harvest of 1946 was largely ruined and according to agricultural specialists, it only aggregated some 50% of the pre-war figure.
2. The effect of UNRRA relief has been scarcely perceptible, since a large proportion of UNRRA supplies has been diverted to Cavtat, either for Albania or for the Greek "Democratic Army". Several thousand tons of grain, for instance, are known to have been shipped to Cavtat under OZMA supervision.
3. The less productive areas in Yugoslavia, exhausted by war-time economy, failed in 1946 to produce the essential quantities of grain and foodstuffs for day-to-day consumption, and under-nourishment is present even in the grain-growing areas.
4. The peasants have moreover been compelled to hand over to the State any surplus over and above the minimum required for subsistence. Various commissions were set up to enforce this measure, which is directed in particular against hoarders of wheat, speculators in hidden stocks of corn, members of the "Green bands" and the more prosperous peasant or so-called "kulak" who is now in process of elimination.
5. The prospects for 1947 are no brighter for, apart from the severe winter, the vast majority of peasants will only rear sufficient livestock and sow a sufficient acreage to cover personal requirements. The authorities do not have the means to compel them to produce more. The conclusion is that famine in Yugoslavia will be wide-spread in 1947.

B. Wages and Conditions of Workers and Employees

6. The wages of workment and employees are fixed by decree. The wages

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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B. Wages and Conditions of Workers and Employees (Cont'd)

of manual workers are out of all proportion of those of white collared workers. Thus, truck drivers, mechanics and other skilled workmen get 15-20 dinars an hour plus special allowances for clothing, overtime, etc. The monthly wage of a motor transport driver is 4,000-7,000 dinars and of a mechanic 4,000 dinars (working an 8-hour day); a white collared worker on the other hand receives no overtime pay and is compelled to work 10-12 hours a day to average 3,000-4,000 dinars a month.

7. In every commercial or manufacturing concern there is a Party cell in control of the work and of the employees and workmen. The Secretary of the cell is either made director of the concern or its establishment officer. In either case the workers and employees come under his constant supervision both in and out of working hours and can be summarily dismissed by him without right of appeal to the trade union; not that such an appeal would do any good as the cell secretary is ipso facto a member of the trade union cell too.
8. The bad feature of such supervision is its impact on the individual. For instance the wife of a workman has only to be seen in the market by the wife of the establishment officer to purchase more than the latter for representations to be made and the workman dismissed. Dismissal carries with it a ban on employment elsewhere for 3-6 months which virtually means starvation for the workman and his family.
9. All social security institutions have been merged into a National Institution for Social Security. The contribution levied on workers and employees is now higher than ever before and amounts to 500 dinars a month out of an average wage of 3,000 dinars.

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